

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1, 2, 19 and 20 have been amended to clarify minor grammatical errors in the claim language. Accordingly no new matter is presented or new issues raised. Claims 1-40 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. THE OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Office Action indicates that the covering members fixed to the coupling bar fixing surfaces of the system units by screws are not shown.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claims 1, 2, 19 and 20 recite, amongst other novel elements "**coupling bars** coupling cover members which cover the plurality of system units, **said coupling bars fixed to coupling-bar fixing surfaces** of said system units." That is, the coupling bars are fixed to the coupling-bar fixing surfaces.

Further support of such claimed language can be found in the specification at least at page 17, lines 31-37 through page 18, line 1, and at FIG. 10 and 11, elements 200-1 through 200-4 and 132-1 through 132-4.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

III. THE OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected under 37 CFR 1.75(d) for failing to describe the covering members fixed to the coupling bar fixing surfaces of the system units by screws.

As noted above, the coupling bars are fixed to the coupling-bar fixing surfaces. Proper support for such claimed language can be found in the specification at least at page 17, lines 31-37 through page 18, line 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

III. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph because the claims contain subject matter not described in the specification.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

As noted above, amended independent claims 1, 2, 19 and 20 recite, amongst other novel elements, "coupling bars coupling cover members" and "said coupling bars fixed to said coupling-bar fixing surfaces." In other words, the coupling bars are fixed to the coupling-bar fixing surfaces.

Proper support for such claimed language can be found in the specification at least at page 17, lines 31-37 through page 18, line 1, and in FIGS. 10 and 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of independent claims 1, 2, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 3-18 and 21-36 should be allowable at least because of their dependence from claims 1, 2, 19 and 20, and the reasons set forth above.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully assert that neither independent claim 37 nor dependent claims 38-40 recite "covering members fixed to the coupling bar fixing surfaces."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

IV. CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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